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Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 19 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the text of the statement by H.E. Mr. Boris Trajkovski, President of the Republic of Macedonia, dated 16 November 2001 following the adoption of the constitutional amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Srgjan **Kerim**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the President of the Republic of Macedonia

I have the pleasure to welcome the adoption of the changes to the Constitution by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, in the early morning hours today.

Allow me:

- To congratulate the members of the Parliament who voted — to those that voted in favour, to those that voted against and to those that abstained. Their participation in this process showed that our democratic values and ideals have prevailed over the law of violence.
- To thank our friends from the international community who showed patience and worked with us in this endeavour.
- To congratulate the leaders of the other parties for their work and commitment in achieving peace during the whole process. This victory belongs to all the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia.

We have a great deal of work before us. We must immediately re-establish the sovereignty and the rule of law throughout the whole territory of Macedonia. We must ensure the return of the displaced persons to their homes before the start of winter. We must reconstruct their homes and repair the infrastructure. We must ensure the return of the children to school. We must initiate the process of healing and the overcoming of differences. We must never forget what happened to our country during this year, but we must learn to forgive and continue to step forward in the realization of the tasks ahead of us.

We now call upon the international community to help. We have fulfilled our share of commitments; now they have to fulfil their share. We expect an unreserved support and involvement from the international community for the return of the security forces to the crisis regions. We call for the early organization of the donors' conference that was promised. We must renew our shattered economy, and that conference would mark only the beginning of the process. We renew our call on the international community for the recognition of our constitutional name: Republic of Macedonia. This would represent a true support to our sovereignty and identity, and a huge contribution to lasting stability in the region.

We have welcomed the position of the United States of America that it will characterize all future acts of armed provocation by Albanian groups in Macedonia as acts of terrorism. We call upon all those that think that violence is a solution to the problems, to lay down their arms and to reintegrate in the community. Fighting has no logic. Violence is not a response; economic development is.

From now on we shall be focused on the bright future of Macedonia. Economic development is crucial to our success, and will once again make us a factor of stability. Macedonia and all its citizens must focus on economic reforms, the fight against corruption, attracting foreign capital and the enhancement of regional cooperation. Macedonia is deeply convinced that membership in Euro-Atlantic integration, in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and in the European

Union are necessary preconditions to its stability, security and development. We will complete our indispensable obligations for membership and we call upon the international community to assist us in the realization of our goals.

The courage shown by the members of Parliament in adopting this huge decision, in very difficult circumstances, makes me confident that Macedonia is on the right path.